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PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

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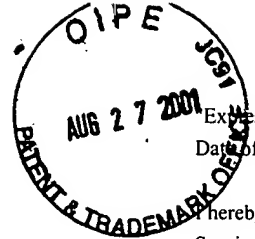
TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09932588	
	Filing Date	August 17, 2001	
	First Named Inventor	Panttaja, James T.	
	Group Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned	
	Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	4	Attorney Docket Number	018167003800

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Preliminary Amendment with version with markings to show changes made (3 pages), Return Postcard
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Firm and Individual name	Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP Gregory E. Stanton Reg No. 45,127
Signature	
Date	August 27, 2001

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

James T. Panttaja, et al.

Application No.:

Filed: August 17, 2001

For: REDEMPTION SYSTEM FOR
AWARD REDEMPTION

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 29 of page 11 with the following amended paragraph:

--Then, in a step 708, of the available awards with the earliest expiration date and with the earliest earning date, the most encumbered awards are determined. In the above example, the available awards with the earliest expiration date and with the earliest earning date correspond to rows 338 and 340. The awards corresponding to row 338 were earned at business "4" according to promotion "2". Referring now to Fig. 4, row 412 indicates that awards earned at business "4" according to promotion "2" are not accepted by supplier "200". Thus, the awards corresponding to row 338 are encumbered. On the other hand, the awards corresponding to row 340 were earned at